



DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

INFORMATION SERVICE

FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE

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Third oldest among its 110 major hatcheries, the Federal fish cultural station at Put-in-Bay, Ohio, has been turned over to the State for the use of the University of Ohio in carrying on its conservation program.

The action was taken by the United States Fish and Wildlife Service, pursuant to an act of Congress and following the recent approval of the transfer by Secretary of the Interior Harold L. Ickes. The deed was granted upon the express condition that if the State shall at any time cease to use the property as above described, it shall revert to the Department of the Interior for use by any of its bureaus.

Established more than half a century ago to propagate lake fish, the old Ohio hatchery had lately begun to become secondary in cultural operations importance to the adjoining State hatchery. More modern in construction and equipment, the latter had facilities sufficient to utilize all the spawn which could normally be obtained. Thus, since 1936, when the State was granted a license to use the Federal property in its work, thereby saving expense to the Government, all operations were gradually concentrated in the State's hatchery and it became undesirable further to maintain the older station.

In addition, funds were recently appropriated for the construction of a new and modern Federal hatchery on a 200-acre site near Hobron, Ohio, purchased by the

State of Ohio and turned over to the Federal Government for this purpose. This fish cultural station will be operated for the rearing and hatching of pond fish, including bass, sunfish, catfish, etc., for distribution in public waters at present inadequately stocked.

"The State of Ohio and Ohio State University," said Secretary Ickes in approving the transfer of property, "have been for some years cooperating with the (former) Bureau of Fisheries in carrying on fishery research programs of mutual interest. Inasmuch as the property would now be utilized by Ohio State University in expanding its research program, which includes fishery research as a major project, it is believed the conveyance of the Put-in-Bay fish hatchery property to the State of Ohio would be in the public interest."

Incidentally, it was pointed out that the original appointment of Glen C. Leach, at present Chief of the Division of Fish Culture of the Fish and Wildlife Service, was to the Put-in-Bay Station. The records show he entered here as a "machinist" in 1902 and has been with the Service continuously since that date.